JOHN NESPOLI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John L. Nespoli, who has been named Community Leaders of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

This prestigious award has been described by Arthritis Foundation Chairperson Deborah D. Hannon as an honor ''presented to an individual who epitomizes the word 'leader' in both their personal and professional life. The recipient is someone who gives back to their community as a way of thanking them for achieving success in their own life.''

John Nespoli is the president and chief executive officer of Mercy Health Partners and one of the senior vice presidents of Catholic Healthcare Partners, which makes him responsible for a $200 million health care system, including a tertiary referral center, community hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care, physician group practice and managed care operations.

In addition, John serves on a large number of diverse community organizations. A native of Berwick, John is a dedicated professional with strong commitment to our region. He is the husband of the former Geri Kamps and the father of twins.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Arthritis Foundation for this year's choice for the ''Community Leader of the Year'' and am pleased to send my year very best wishes to John as he accepts this prestigious honor.

GEORGE NEAVOLL MAKES THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTION TO MAINE

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Neavoll, who edited the opinion pages of the Portland Press Herald and the Maine Sunday Telegram newspapers from 1991 until his retirement earlier this month. His readers, myself included, know that he leaves behind very large shoes to fill.

In the words of his colleagues, George Neavoll ''set an unapologetically upbeat tone for the opinion pages, wrote extensively about the State's environment and worked to create a consciousness among Mainers that they live in the Atlantic Rim region.''

During his time as editorial page editor, Mr. Neavoll championed many causes and highlighted problems in need of attention. From management of our fisheries and protection of our air, land, and water, to the return of passenger rail service in Maine and the need for improved East-West travel routes in our State, George Neavoll enhanced public discourse and made us think.

He also opened up the editorial board meetings to the public, and redesigned the editorial pages to provide more space for letters to the editor and more opportunity for local residents to submit columns.

Throughout his 30-year career in the newspaper business, Mr. Neavoll was recognized for his commitment to excellence numerous times. He received awards for writing, particularly in the areas of environmental protection and human rights. He received a Global Media Award from The Population Institute in 1996; a Human Rights Award from the Portland chapter of Amnesty International in 1995; and the first Portland Bias Crime Task Force's Diversity Bridge Building Award in 1995.

Although originally from Oregon, his obvious love for Maine and his concern for its people make George Neavoll a true Mainer. His impact on public policy, civic life and political dialogue will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering George and his wife, Laney, best wishes for the future. They have made Maine a better place, and they richly deserve this opportunity to travel and spend time with their children.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BRADNER TOWN HALL AND OPERA HOUSE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Sunday, September 19, 1999, the Village of Bradner will celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Bradner Town Hall and Opera House.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the citizens of Bradner decided to take an enormous step—to solidify their position and build a town hall. The Village embarked on a venture to locate a site, procure the necessary funding and materials, and build a truly remarkable building. Their efforts, after concluding the necessary paperwork, votes, and administrative matters, were finalized in 1899 as F.K. Hewitt was hired to design and J.W. Stiger hired to build the Bradner Town Hall.

The Bradner Town Hall has long been the centerpiece of this wonderful community. This small, yet vibrant area holds the same inner-strength found throughout the Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state of Ohio. That strength and common bond is driven from the town hall. For one-hundred years, the Bradner Town Hall has served as the focal point for the community, the symbol of independence and freedom, and the source of the community's pride.

With all its beauty, the Bradner Town Hall symbolizes all that is good in our communities—strength, fortitude, grace, and resilience. The Bradner Town Hall and Opera House has housed the Village fire department, jail, and public utilities offices. It also contains an upstairs Opera House and a library. Throughout the many changes, its use as the governmental center of Bradner has remained constant as it is home to the mayor's office and village council chambers. After first opening the building one-hundred years ago, the Village of Bradner conducts official business in the town hall to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in our local communities and the town halls located in them. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Bradner Town Hall on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

HONORING BRUCE P. MARQUIS, HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CHIEF OF POLICE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Independent School District ''HISD'' Police Chief Bruce P. Marquis for his outstanding contribution to the safety and well-being of our children attending HISD schools, which was recently highlighted in an article in the Wall Street Journal.

Since the day he took office in 1994, Chief Marquis has embraced a simple, guiding principle—to foster an environment, as he puts it, ''for teaching and learning to take place.'' His work to make our Houston community schools safer for students and teachers has been nothing less than outstanding. Not only has he made our schools safer, but he has made our children feel safer. Chief Marquis is a strong believer in the concept that our children must feel secure in order to learn.

HISD officials made a forward-thinking decision 5 years ago when they created a new Police chief position for the schools and hired Bruce, who was distinguished by his extensive management experience and his background in law enforcement. A former agent in the FBI's Houston office, Bruce brought long-range vision and can-do pragmatism to the creation and management of HISD's police department. Only Texas and Florida State laws allow school districts to create their own police forces. Bruce has built the HISD police department from the ground up, expanding it into the largest in the state.

Since Chief Marquis took over, aggravated assaults in Houston schools have decreased by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds. Chief Marquis' proactive and aggressive leadership became evident from the beginning of his tenure when he helped persuade the Texas Legislature to transfer authority over school police officers from principals to school police chiefs. Once that was done he made sure that HISD officers wore uniforms and badges, and that they carried guns just like community peace officers. Whether it's dealing with gang activity, drug deals or weapons, Marquis stations his officers throughout our schools to proactively stop problems before they start.

Other innovations Chief Marquis has helped institute include: HISD officers making arrests

and keeping records, issuing citations for truancy and fighting, and jailing kids aged 17 and over for not paying fines. He went above and beyond duty when he extended his department's jurisdiction to include a shelter for battered women.

Chief Marquis's law enforcement credentials run deep. In addition to his 10 years with Houston's FBI office, he served as a former U.S. Air Force officer, chief of police at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, and security manager for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Games. Chief Marquis has put his experience and professionalism to good use for Houston's children. I am proud that my friends and constituents Bruce and his wife Traci Bransford-Marquis have chosen to share their spirit of giving with their community, and are teaching their two children those same values.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Marquis for his contributions toward ensuring our children are safer. To protect our students in today's increasingly violent society, Chief Marquis has transformed a loose coalition of school security guards with essentially no law enforcement tools into a modern, efficient team of officers who, armed with a full range of police training and expertise, form a network of safety within our Houston school district.

I insert in the RECORD at this point The Wall Street Journal article on Bruce Marquis which appeared September 20, 1999.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 20, 1999]

READING, WRITING AND MIRANDA RIGHTS: COPS PATROL SCHOOLS

(By June Kronholz)

HOUSTON—Armed, trained in assault tactics, equipped with bulletproof vests and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by 24-hour emergency dispatchers. Chief Bruce P. Marquis and his 177-member police department walk the country's highest-profile beat this fall.

They patrol public schools.

Schools are safer than they have been in years, the U.S. Department of Education reports. Crimes against kids while they're in school are down by 20% in three years; one-third fewer children were suspended for bringing a gun to school in 1998 than the year before. Education Secretary Richard Riley calls schools the safest place for a child to be.

But the gun rampage in Littleton, Colo., the deadliest in a three-year string of school shootings, is the flip side of that good news, and has sent school districts rushing to upgrade their security. Kids returned to school to find metal detectors, fences, dress codes, security cameras. And, in the Houston schools, one thing more: a police department.

Forget the days when the football coach doubled as security chief, checking the boys' room for idlers and cigarette smoke. The Houston Independent School District Police Department stations armed officers in the 58 middle schools and high schools and many of the 35 magnet and other alternative schools in its 312-square-mile jurisdiction. It patrols school neighborhoods with bicycles and a fleet of squad cars, fields gang and drug task forces and operates a crime-scene communications van.

Over and over on a recent, stifling-hot afternoon, a new Special Response Team practices skulking down an alley below window level, crouching behind a bullet-proof shield and then, with guns drawn, rushing a stairwell to overwhelm an imaginary gunman.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

There is a horse-mounted unit for traffic control. An investigations division handles crimes short of rape and murder. Dispatchers fielded 14,000 calls last year. And heading it all is a 47-year-old former FBI agent who holds a doctorate in education, earns $84,000 a year and has shaped his department down to the smallest details, including designing the uniforms and the department flag himself. Chief Marquis—so mindful of chain-of-command protocol that he and his longtime deputy address each other by their titles—offers this description of his job: ''We exist for teaching and learning to take place.''

Education is a local function in the U.S., so districts handle security in lots of different ways, and no one collects nation-wide information. Most districts, if they use any security at all, use armed local police, reasoning that because schools are part of the community, they should be protected by community police. But some districts use police just to patrol the halls, while others ask them to run safety and counseling programs as well. Some pay local police with school funds; others depend on the police force to pay the costs and handle the administration.

In Texas and Florida, state laws allow school districts to create their own police forces, and 82 of the 1,042 school districts in Texas have done just that. With a budget of about $12 million, the HISD police department is the largest in the State. But beyond that, Houston shows how the job of protecting school kids has expanded and become professionalized since the days when coaches patrolled the halls.

The starting salary for an HISD police officer is $28,000, only about $1,000 less than for Houston Police Department rookies. New hires must be graduates of a police-academy program, hold a police license and have 60 hours toward a college degree. By state law, officers receive at least 20 hours of training a year. Bike patrols and drug and gang specialists receive training beyond that. And the Special Response Team practices hostage rescues and school evacuations two days a month, including training with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SHAPING UP

That's a far cry from the department that Chief Marquis inherited in 1994—a ''ragtag bunch'' in mismatched uniforms, he says, who applied the decals to their squad cars themselves. Because Houston's schools use site-based management, giving principals control over some of the day-to-day details of running their schools, HISD policemen carried guns and wore uniforms in schools where principals favored them but didn't elsewhere.

Houston's superintendent, Rod Paige, says the school board decided to upgrade its policing when focus groups told it that middle-class parents, and particularly whites, were leaving the district because they viewed the schools as unsafe. Of Houston's 211,000 students, more than half are Hispanic, a third are African-American and three-quarters are poor. Big-city superintendents worry, says Dr. Paige, ''that school districts so at odds demographically with the rest of the community'' risk losing community support, especially financial support. And operating unsafe schools is one certain step on that path.

In the 1993–94 school year, HISD police reported 89 aggravated assaults, two murders, seven rapes and 244 cases of children carrying weapons to school. Hired mid-year, Chief Marquis already had been a U.S. Air Force officer, chief of police at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, security manager for the 1984 Olympic Games and a 10-year member of the FBI. The son of a San Francisco bus driver, he graduated from the University of Portland, earned a business degree from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles and got his doctorate from Texas Southern University in Houston. He expects to earn a second master's degree, in criminal-justice management, this spring, and after that is eyeing a program at Harvard.

Two years into his HISD job, Chief Marquis, a Democrat, ran for sheriff of heavily Republican Harris County and took a drubbing. But he moves easily in Houston's civic circles, from the YMCA to the rodeo, and entertains a steady stream of TV reporters who ask about the schools.

A typical Marquis day begins at 4 a.m. with a workout and allows for one cup of coffee, weekdays only. He does the cooking for his wife, a former Justice Department lawyer, and two small children, and sews a missing button on his daughter's dress before she leaves for preschool.

Still, the screen saver on his office computer declares ''Always Forward.'' Vince Lombardi quotations hang framed on the wall (''What It Takes to Be No. 1''). And Chief Marquis delights in pushing the boundaries of his job description: He recently extended his department's jurisdiction to include a shelter for battered women, on whose board he sits, by reasoning that the children of the abused mothers probably attend Houston schools. ''I'm not a status-quo kind of guy,'' he says.

BEARING ARMS

Indeed. Among his first changes, Chief Marquis helped persuade the Texas Legislature to put school police officers under the direction of school-police chiefs, taking them out of the orbit of principals. With that, HISD officers began wearing uniforms and badges—and carrying guns. Without guns, ''they're not police officers,'' the chief says.

Where HISD police formerly backed up Houston police on calls in schools, now it's the other way around, with school police making the arrests and keeping the records, (although still using Houston police substations for bookings). Emergency dispatchers, who once routed 911 calls through the Houston police, now relay them directly to HISD. And four years ago, HISD police received the authority to issue citations: Disrupting school can bring a Class C citation that carriers a $400 municipal-court fine. Violating a 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. curfew—imposed by the city to keep kids off the street when they should be in school—can bring a $250 fine. And citations for fighting can start at $250 and soar to $1,300.

At age 17, moreover, a youngster can be sent to jail for not paying his fines. ''That gets their attention,'' says HISD Capt. Al Barnes. More important, he adds, it helps keep fights off the school grounds and out of the classrooms.

With site-based management, Houston's schools can decide to use their detectors and security cameras, and they can opt for school uniforms and bans on trench coats. Milby High School is banning denim this year, and because of thefts and fires in the lockers, Austin High has bolted them shut, which means students all carry around their days' books and supplies.

RANDOM SEARCHES

But to add to the schools' precautions, Chief Marquis also issues hand-held metal detectors to his officers and next year, will add computers to link them with headquarters—a converted telephone-company building—and into the records bureau. Prompted by the Littleton shootings, HISD will begin twice-monthly drug and weapons searches this year, randomly picking out a school and then two classes in that school for searchers. More typically, though, his officers linger at front doors as school begins each morning, picking up on tensions or bad moods. They wander hallways, shooing stragglers into class. They direct traffic at dismissal, breaking up knots of loiterers who might, out of idleness, start trouble. And they listen for word of gang fights, drug deals and weapons.

That word usually gets out, Officer Marvin Lee says with reassuring certainty, because ''the good kids outweigh the bad kids.'' Officer Lee has patrolled Lamar High, a middle-class school with 3,000 students, for 15 years, and he has a clear sense of his job: ''It's stepping out little fires before they become big fires.''

Across town, a little fire appears to be smoldering at Yates High as a skinny sophomore is brought into the tiny police office, accused of kicking an assistant principal who has reprimanded him for not wearing the regulation khaki pants. The parents have been called, and the teenager, clearly fearful of his stepfather, sits worried and resentful as Officer Ernest Lang outlines his strategy.

Officer Lang, who scored 33 touchdowns in his senior year at Yates in 1951 and is still known in Central Houston as ''The Legend,'' plans to get the boy into the school ROTC program, and assigns a sleepy-looking senior nicknamed Wolf to serve as his mentor. An officer who knows the stepfather will look in at home from time to time, and a Baptist preacher who was tossed out of Yates 20 years ago but has returned as a counselor will work on the youngster's attitude. ''We can reach him if we take the time.'' Officer Lang says easily. Then, as the parents arrive for a conference, he leans toward the youngster and warns: ''Don't you act ugly now.''

Juvenile crime has fallen nationwide in the past five years: In Houston's schools, aggravated assaults are down by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds since Chief Marquis took his job. Dewey Cornell, a psychologist who studies youth violence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, credits better policing for part of the decline. But he also credits a strong economy, the calming of the cocaine wars, success in arresting gang leaders, a federal law that mandates expulsion for bringing guns to school, and the spread of character-education and conflict-mediation programs.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Ten years ago, worried about what they saw as declining social and moral values, local business leaders raised $2 million to fund one of the country's early character-education programs in Houston's schools. The idea is to teach values such as honesty and self-discipline as part of every class, says Dot Woodson, who was a University of Houston basketball coach before coming to HISD to head the program. So, in a class on the Boston Tea Party, she tells teachers to ask kids, ''What would make you so angry that you would want to rebel, and what are the appropriate ways to rebel?''

In a decade, Houston has trained 16,000 of its teachers in character education and bought or written character-education curricula for all its schools. Ten state legislatures (although not Texas's) now mandate that schools teach character education, and six others encourage it. ''This is the place to spend money,'' Virginia's Dr. Cornell insists.

Certainly, compared with hiring policemen, character education is cheap. Security is barely a blip on the $1.2 billion budget of the Houston schools, but even so, the district sets aside $9 million. Chief Marquis says his spending, which comes from several budget pots, actually is at least a third more, and even that doesn't include what the schools individually spend on security hardware. Meanwhile, Houston's character-education program is still operating, in part, off its original $2 million grant.

With schools under huge pressure to raise standards and test scores, special-response teams and communications vans can seem like an extravagance—until they're needed, of course. Herbert Karpicke, principal of the 700-student High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, offers a tour while Chief Marquis is giving an interview in the school's video lab. Doors open onto a choir practice, a jazz band, a corps of ballerinas, dramatic soliloquies. Dr. Karpicke has persuaded the district to contribute $15 million toward a new, larger school, but he has to raise the other $15 million himself in the next five years, and he is wondering how.

Even this school—its hallways lined with cellos, its students hand-picked—has an armed HISD police officer at the front door, though. Chief Marquis concedes the benefits of violence-prevention programs: They're ''a spoke in the wheel,'' he says. ''But as long as problems from the community come onto the campuses, the police are necessary,'' he says, and that means armed, trained and equipped officers. He is lobbying to hire 40 more.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT TAYLOR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an individual who spent his life not just preaching about the needs of the poor, but by doing something in meaningful ways to help meet the needs of the poor. Rev. Robert Taylor was a priest, a licensed clinical social worker and what we commonly call a community activist.

Father Taylor was an Episcopal Priest for decades in Chicago, he was one of the 15 priests fined and sentenced to jail after they had led a prayer pilgrimage in Jackson, Mississippi to protest segregation in 1961. Father Taylor spent about three weeks in jail but breach of peace charges were dropped.

St. Leonard's is a halfway house located on Washington and Hoyne on the westside of Chicago, in the Henry Horner Housing Project area across the street from the Mile Square Community Health Center where I worked for a number of years. Father Taylor began working at St. Leonard's House in the 1950's with ex-convicts and also worked as a chaplain at Cook County Jail. by the end of the decade, he had helped to build St. Leonard's from a small service for only a handful of ex-convicts to a well-regarded refuge for men looking to rebuild their lives. In 1963, he was appointed executive director and led St. Leonard's House until 1970.

When he first got involved with St. Leonard's House, Father Taylor lived with his wife and children at the westside halfway house in the midst of what was usually called a ghetto. He opened himself up to ex-offenders and helped them to get jobs. ''He was one of the greatest priests I've ever known,'' said Father Jones. ''When he gave his heart and soul to the ex-prisoners they learned that people were not all down on them.'' Father Taylor later joined the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in 1980, as the director of the Office of Pastoral Care, in 1987, he became director of program and mission for the diocese. For years he worked with his wife, also a social worker, and together they helped scores of people overcome alcohol and drug addictions.

When you give of yourself that is when you truly give. Robert Taylor, an advocate for the poor, truly gave of himself.

THE MAINTAIN UNITED STATES TRADE LAW RESOLUTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with over 100 of my colleagues, introduced the Maintain United States Trade (MUST) Law Resolution. This resolution will send a clear message to our trading partners that the President and the Congress will maintain our antidumping and countervailing duty laws. This measure will put the House on record as opposing the renegotiation of these critical trade laws at the upcoming Seattle round of the World Trade Organization. These laws are the cornerstone of a free and fair open market policy, and represent one of the few means of redress for American producers and workers.

According to the U.S. International Trade Association, as of March 1, 1999, over 290 products from 59 different countries were under antidumping and countervailing duty orders. Following my statement are a list of over 120 of these products. Throughout the steel crisis, antidumping and countervailing duty laws have represented one of the few means of relief for American steel workers. These laws are far reaching and affect countless products throughout the United States. It is imperative that the administration uphold these important trade laws at the WTO Seattle Round.

The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference, to be held in Seattle from November 30 to December 3, 1999, will launch a new round of trade negotiations. These talks will focus on reshaping WTO rules regarding agriculture, services, and intellectual property. However, many foreign countries are seeking to expand the agenda in order to debate the WTO's antidumping and countervailing duty laws. The MUST Law Resolution will allow the Administration to attend the Seattle negotiations with a unified statement from the Congress declaring that the United States must